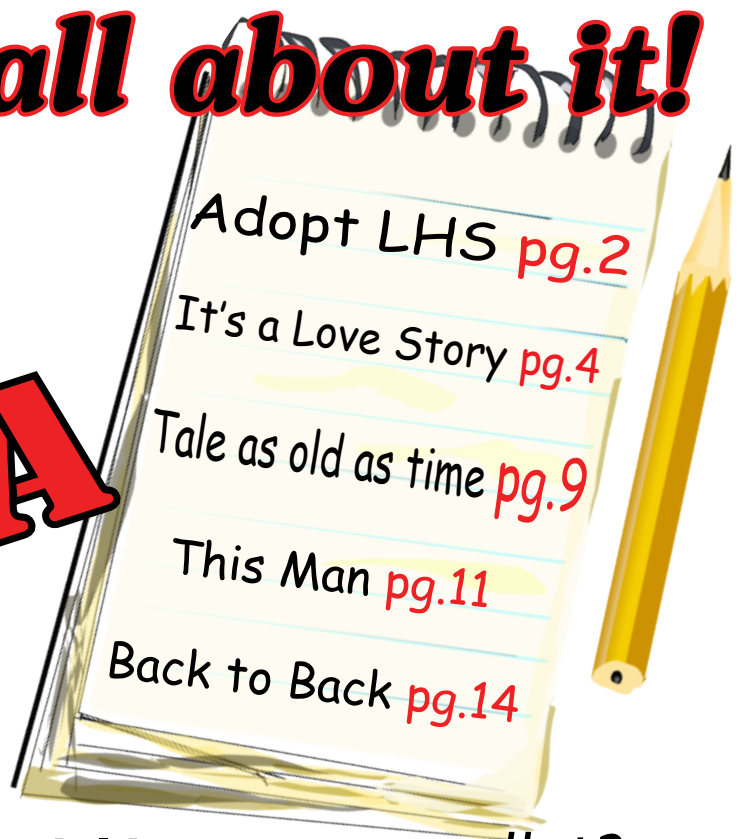


LEMON EXTRA EXTRA TODAY

Read all about it!



Save the children or your *wallet*?

Community's Choice Evident as District 113A Referendum Fails

by Dylan Blaha
News Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 2, a District 113A referendum took center stage awaiting polling. The referendum, designed to lessen the district's two million dollar debt, proposed a \$0.45 increase in tax rates. In response, almost 70% of Lemont residents rejected the plan.

The vetoed measure followed a 6-1 School Board vote in November to place the proposal on the ballot. "I expected it to go this way, times are tough right now," School Board member Janet Hughes, the lone dissenter, told the *Lemont Reporter*.

According to unofficial election results taken after all 14 Cook County and three DuPage precincts reported, 3,996 residents voted against the referendum, while only 1,864 voted in favor.

"Before voters would pass a referendum, they need to trust the school board and its administration," said Hughes. "I believe voters spoke loud and clear."

Dr. Sandra Doeber, Lemont High School District 210 Superintendent, said District 113A filed a financial claim in case the referendum failed. "From what I've heard, they plan to cut programs and 70 staff positions."

"What impacts one school system impacts another," added Doeber. "[District 210] will continue to talk with them and see what actions we need to take to help."

Lemont resident Tracy Dalton and several others passed out over 2,700 flyers urging voters to vote 'no' on the tax increase. "There is not a winner

Continue on page 2



Adopt LHS

Janelle Fennessy
News writer

Last January it was \$5000, this January it was \$7000. For the past two years, Lemont High School has received donations from the “Adopt-a-School” program to fund various school projects. These donations purchased numerous items, from new technology for the Performing Arts Center (PAC) to poles for the softball and baseball fields.

International-Matex Tank Terminals (IMTT), a liquid handling service, first asked LHS last year for projects it could fund for its involvement in the “Adopt-a-School” program. LHS asked for IMTT to help update the PAC technology; the first donation from IMTT bought theatre tools, set construction equipment and a portable lighting station.

“The new equipment is really nice,” said junior Kevin Goffard. “It helps us build sets faster and do more with assemblies.”

The recent donation goes toward purchasing new foul poles for the LHS varsity baseball and softball fields at the LHS sports Complex on Bell Road. New, 20 foot poles will replace the current, temporary poles in the coming months.

“I think it’s really cool that our softball and baseball programs are receiving this donation,” said junior softball player Courtney Johnson. “It’s such a positive thing for all the players.”

“Community partnerships like the IMTT Adopt-a-School program are so important,” said Lemont High School District 210 Superintendent Dr. Sandra Doeber in a recent interview. “We are very appreciative of the generosity IMTT has shown to Lemont High School.”

Save the children, cont.

in this, but the town has definitely spoken,” she told the *Reporter*.

According to Dalton, the school board’s failure to communicate the purpose of the nearly six million dollar tax increase weakened the plan’s chances. “I think the school didn’t explain what they were going to do.”

“It’s a shame that programs are going to be cut,” said Ryan Leadley, LHS freshman. “Kids are going to be disappointed.”

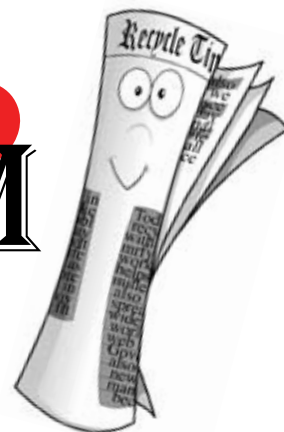
Doeber stated that LHS is safe “assuming everything remains the same” regarding future referendum in District 210. “I sent out an email to all parents this past week stating that annual, 5-year projections show that a referendum will not be needed within that timeframe.”

“With many failed referendums, it is often misinformation distributed to the public that is the problem,” commented Doeber. The only remaining question? Can the public be swayed before the next referendum?

“Adopt-a-School” works to provide resources to promote world literacy and encourages the donation of books and computer equipment to schools around the world. To receive funding, schools create a list of projects and the sponsoring business picks one of the choices to provide for the school. As of now, IMTT will continue to sponsor LHS with future projects.



TOM-TOM



Tom-Tom G-Day Staff

Head Editor:
David Timm

Design Editor:
Taylor Thanos

News Editor:
Dylan Blaha

Editorials Editor:
David Timm

Features Editor:
Christine Alwan

Sports Editor:
Emily Pellegrine

Staff Photographer:
Stephanie D'Amato

News:
Janelle Fennessy

Editorials:
Arlene Bozich
Katie Callaghan

Features:
Dale Erdmier
Rachel Colant
Kathleen Clark
Orla Ruane

Sports:
Steph D'Amato
Jamie Wiatr
*The LHS Tom-Tom does
not discriminate on the
basis of race, gender,
religion, or orientation.*

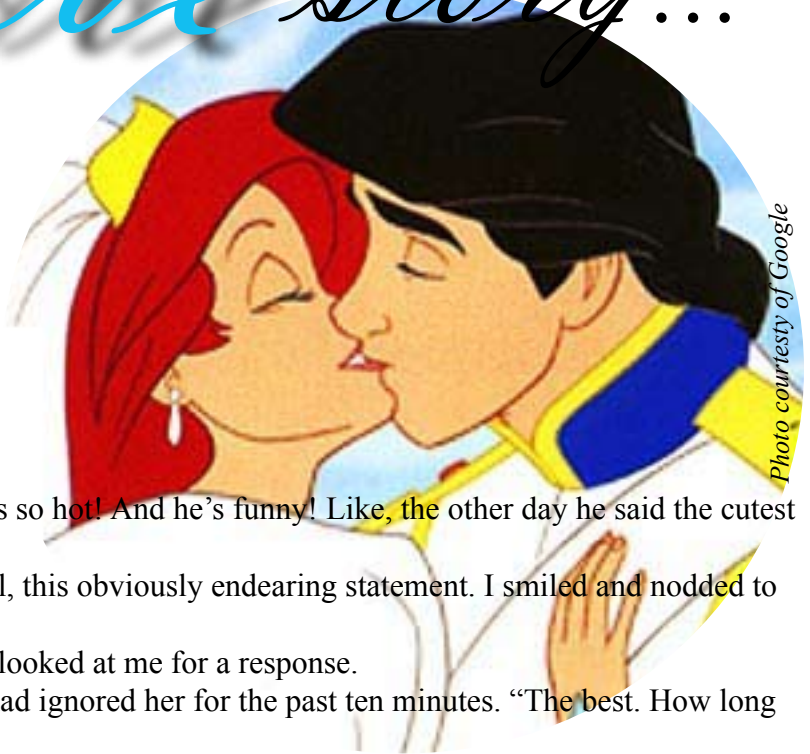


It's a *love* story...

Baby, just say

no

by Arlene Bozich
Editorials writer



"Oh my gosh," gushed the girl next to me, "he's so hot! And he's funny! Like, the other day he said the cutest thing..."

And then she went on to describe, in vivid detail, this obviously endearing statement. I smiled and nodded to be polite.

"...I mean, he's just the best!" she finished and looked at me for a response.

"Oh yeah," I said, trying to hide the fact that I had ignored her for the past ten minutes. "The best. How long have you two been together?"

And, to my great surprise, she stopped talking. She simply gave me a blank stare.

"The boy you were just talking about," I said, trying to get a response from her. "How long have you been together?"

"Edward?" she said confusedly. "He's a vampire."

We stared at each other for about a minute. Then I turned away awkwardly and we didn't speak again.

Sadly, situations like this happen every day. Girls, the same girls who complain that guys are obsessed with supermodels and unrealistic ideals of beauty, are quickly becoming infatuated with imaginary characters and romantic ideas of "Mr. Right."

The truth is girls have been conditioned to believe these wild love stories since they were little. Remember Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*? Or how about Jasmine from *Aladdin*? Actually, all of the Disney Princesses have had a hand in the obliteration of girls' grip on reality.

These princesses have shown us all through childhood that being thin, beautiful, and liking the color pink is all that matters. Also, that Prince Charming? He'll definitely come along. Princesses don't work on

Continue on page 5



relationships; the Prince takes care of everything for them.

The Disney Prince has always taken care of every problem. The Princess, or damsel in distress, just has to love the Prince in return. He's perfect; he'll take care of everything for the Princess.

Now, the newest Disney Princess Tiana from *The Princess and the Frog* is a leap in the right direction, but the rest of the Disney Princess Gang is still kicking the heck out of what girls perceive as the perfect guy.

The "Disney Effect" can be seen all around us. On February 5th, crowds of girls (and some random guys) threw their money at box offices to see Nicholas Sparks' latest love saga, *Dear John*. Wasting money isn't the only drawback to these unrealistic ideas of love.

According to James P. Krehbiel, a nationally certified cognitive-behavioral therapist, these unrealistic expectations can damage our self-image, as well as our relationships. "When we

expect too much from others, we are generally self-critical as well. The inner critic is the judge and jury of our behavior. Often, instead of taking control of our critic, we project it onto others and make friends feel defective."

So, not *only* are you self loathing, you're tearing down relationships you've been building your entire life! Still think Mr. Right is worth it?

Love stories are great entertainment, but that's all they are: *entertainment*. Girls need to realize that life isn't a fairytale. Your knight in shining armor might simply be a moron wrapped in tin foil. Or the boy that sits next to you in English class. Or that guy that randomly texts you just to say hello.

On the flip side, guys need to understand that not every girl is a supermodel. We aren't going to randomly wake up one day looking like Jessica Alba or Angelina Jolie, so stop wasting your time hoping for it.

So, maybe Prince Charming isn't coming to sweep you off your feet. But chances are you'll find someone better, even if he doesn't ride a white horse.



Photo courtesy of Google



Photo of Carly Lambert and Adriana Taleski

Yes, there is a “right” way to argue and no, you can’t convince me otherwise. Okay, maybe, if you use some logical reasoning and have a legitimate opposing argument, then, I might consider it, but definitely not until then.

A similar thought process should go through everyone’s head as they decide whether or not to engage in an argument. However, this rarely happens as most people, especially teens, do not use logic when arguing. Instead, we choose to speak from our hearts rather than our heads.

A part of the problem is teens are not specifically taught to use logic in school; take LHS for example, yes some classes indirectly teach logic, but it’s not until senior year in American Problems students are actually introduced to the science of logic, otherwise known as critical thinking. The class teaches simple concepts relating to logic, such as fallacies of logic, moral arguments and other means of standing up for what you believe in a logical way.

Students, for the most part, are left to their own devices when it comes to learning how to use logic effectively. Sure, most of logic is, well, logical and mostly common sense; but it’s also common sense to not drive off a cliff, or walk into the middle of a busy street, yet we teach our children not to do these things. The point is, we often learn well from experience, but sometimes it’s better to learn from a safe distance.



To ignore a fundamental, necessary piece of human communication and teach other basic skills is irrational. We would never let a student leave high school without teaching them basic math or social studies skills, why should logic and critical thinking be any different? In fact, a logic class might be more valuable than any other single subject.

According to Steven D. Schafersman in his “*An introduction to critical thinking*”, “All education consists of transmitting to students two different things: (1) the subject matter or discipline content of the course (“what to think”), and (2) the correct way to understand and evaluate this subject matter (“how to think”).” He goes on to say while schools do an exceptional job teaching students *what* to think, they more than often neglect to teach students *how* to think.

So, I’m out to change the world, one argument at a time.

This is what I think: everyone should be able to argue logically, it is a vital skill in any job you will ever have; whether you are trying to convince your boss you deserve a raise, or you think the Cubs are better than the Sox (or

*So, I’m out to
change the world,*



*one argument
at a time.*

Photo courtesy of Google

vice-versa), there will never be a time in your life where you will not have to argue about something.

Besides, logic and critical thinking are not impossible to teach by any stretch of the imagination, they are just overlooked. It is no wonder that teachers are often frustrated when kids don’t interact much in class. Most are probably waiting for the teacher to tell them what to think rather than offer their own thoughts on what is being discussed. Now, of course there are students who have, by other means, discovered to think critically, but it’s unrealistic to expect every student to catch on as quickly as some might.

Again, Schafersman’s words ring true, “Children are not born with the power to think critically, nor do they develop this ability naturally beyond survival-level thinking. Critical thinking is a learned ability that must be taught. Most individuals never learn it. Critical thinking cannot be taught reliably to students by peers or by most parents. Trained and knowledgeable instructors are necessary to impart the proper information and skills.”

So why not start teaching logic in high school? It seems we have little to lose and much to gain by simply teaching a semester-long class devoted to critical thinking. Besides, it’s the logical thing to do.



TOM-TOM

FEATURES



Class color day

by Orla Ruane
Features writer

Lemont High School students are well able to handle change. Between the addition, new teachers and a different final exam schedule, it seems as though change doesn't even phase us anymore. However, this mission possible week brought a change upon us that determined the fate of class color day for years to come.

"Spirit week has just gotten way out of control," said Kathryn Kupchek, English teacher and student council sponsor.

This year, the LHS main gym was no longer filled with students wearing the usual orange, red, pink or green. Instead, freshman and sophomores continued to wear their orange and red apparel while the juniors represented the once "SENIORS ONLY" green and seniors rocked out in black.

When announced that the juniors would receive the seniors hammy-down color, and the seniors given a new color all together, confusion as to why the sudden change occurred sparked rumors that created student outcries to rebel against class color day altogether.

"We decided to change [class color day] for many reasons. Firstly, the tagging of different colors with spray paint and silly string became a serious issue. The school was being vandalized to a point. Then we had issues with the color pink. Designating the color pink to a class led to boys cross-dressing and wearing inappropriate clothing, and it became a disturbance. Then [inappropriate clothing] carried on through the seniors because you know, they got a lot of attention for it the year before and they thought it was funny. The lastly, the double meaning/inappropriate sayings on t-shirts were too much," said Kupchek.

"We definitely didn't want class color day to be taken away altogether, so the administration is very thankful for the cooperation from the students," stated Kupchek.

This class color day was somewhat like a trial-run for the administration to see if students at LHS could follow the rules and make the right decisions. If students do decide to make poor choices, it will affect the entire school. Luckily, LHS proved to adjust to change once again and show their school spirit in a positive way.

to be no more?



Changing it up with a

by Jessica Wienand
Features writer

"Tale as Old

The LHS thespians are biting their nails in preparation for the week of February 16th, when they will step on stage and give it their all in hopes for a part in *Beauty and the Beast*. But they know something is approaching to break the pattern of Lemont High School's spring musicals: audition cuts.

In a letter to all students interested in trying out for this year's musical, director Dan Franke stated, "We are no longer casting all who audition in the show. This means that there will be disappointed kids..." In the past, every student who auditioned received a part, whether it was a lead or a minor role in the ensemble. However, due to limited roles and a surplus of prospective performers, those who plan on auditioning expect competition like never before.

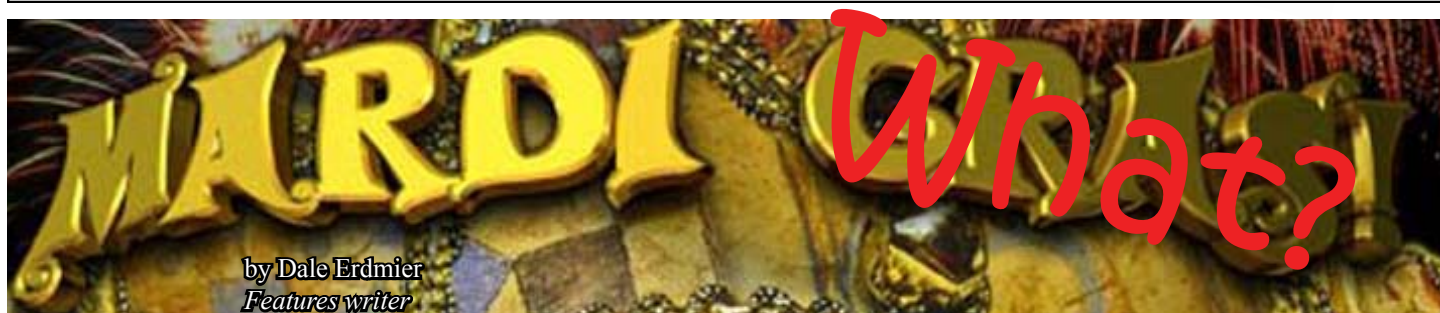
Junior Danny Kulasik expects tryouts to be "pretty competitive, as far as the leads." Casting is based solely on auditions, and in a school where talent runs high, this means preparation is key. Danny also knows that being prepared in the face of fierce competition calms nerves and can help land a leading role. But what happens to the people who are not cast?

Although many students may be turned away from auditions, there are places for everyone interested in theatre. In his letter to students, when speaking of the cuts, Dan Franke stated, "...this also means that some people will get to experience another aspect of the theatre." The other aspects include opportunities to assist in publicity, costumes, make-up, set-construction, etc.

If you're planning on attending the musical in May, expect to see some fresh faces on stage.



Photo courtesy of Google



The strings of beads, the creative masks, and the swarms of yellow, green and purple mean only one thing: Mardi Gras. Of course these things come to mind when thinking about the holiday, but was that all it was really intended for? The answer is a resounding no.

Mardi Gras came to New Orleans from the French heritage in 1699, when explorers celebrated the holiday near the Mississippi River. Ever since, New Orleans natives have been adding their own traditions to the celebration.

"It seems like the holiday was meant to be very traditional and exciting, so I think it's cool that it is still celebrated all over," said junior Matt Lithgow.

Another common name used when referring to Mardi Gras is Carnival. The word sums up the festivities for people who don't understand the idea of celebration from the words "Mardi Gras" These festivities are an all day event filled with limitless entertainment that brings happiness to many.

Nowadays, ways of celebrating have changed. Mardi Gras experts would recommend planning ahead and making a trip to New Orleans. The day is meant to be celebrated with friends and family and should be a wonderful memory. Dress up, respect the people near by, and get there early.

The dancing, the laughing and the festivities all bring some excitement to Feb. 16. Junior Tessa Spinelli said, "I think it would be a great experience to celebrate in New Orleans. It would just make the holiday that much more traditional."

For more about the history of Mardi Gras visit:
<http://www.mardigrasneworleans.com/>





Have you seen

This Man

by Rachel Colant
Features writer

Photo courtesy of thisman.org



Have you ever dreamed about the man in the picture? At least 2,000 people can answer 'yes' to that question. In 2006, a woman drew 'This Man' for her psychiatrist after explaining to him that he had repeatedly entered her dreams and given her advice. A few days later, another patient recognized This Man from the picture lying on the psychiatrist's desk. The psychiatrist then forwarded this picture to his colleagues with patients known to have reoccurring dreams. Four more people recognized this drawing as a man from their dreams in the following months. Is your skin crawling yet?

According to thisman.org, at least 2,000 people sharing no known common traits in cities from all over the world, from Beijing to New York, have seen This Man in their dreams. Of all the people who recognized This Man, not one stated that they'd ever seen him in their waking life. So, what's the deal?

Anthony Cirrincione, a junior at Lockport Township High School, has dreamed of This Man.

"I knew that I'd seen him... I looked at the picture of his face and I started getting the worst goose bumps ever. All of a sudden, I just got scared," said Cirrincione.

There are quite a few theories that have been

developed in attempts to explain this phenomenon. The Archetype Theory, which follows the principles of renowned Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung, suggests that This Man is an image of people's unconscious minds that appear in times of hardship. The Religious Theory suggests that This Man is a way in which God manifests himself. This is the reason why people who dream him follow the advice he gives. The Dream Surfer Theory is significantly less credible than the others. It suggests that This Man is a real person who can enter people's dreams through advanced psychological skills. Multiple other theories exist, and some even suggest that the appearance of This Man is a hoax.

Most people that are aware of This Man have seen thisman.org, a website whose aim is to "help those who have seen this man in their dreams" and "understand who this man is and why he appears in an apparently pattern-less array of situations in the dreams of such diverse human subjects." They have had great success in achieving this goal; there are over 350 pages of responses and personal tales of dreams of This Man.

"I didn't even know what the site was when I first clicked on it... But as soon as I saw it, I was instantly uncomfortable. As I read on, I realized that I had seen This Man in my dreams before. I don't remember exactly what happened, but I remember him talking to me and a group of people somewhere... almost like a tour or hike or something. Since then, I've been posting the website on my Facebook and asking my friends if they've ever seen him," recalled Cirrincione.

So, now I pose this question to you: Have you ever dreamed This Man?



A strike of success

Since the age of five, senior Joey Petzoldt has pursued the sport of bowling. He now has his sights set on becoming a professional bowler. With a load of motivation and pure determination, Petzoldt already knows what it will take to get to the professional level.

"I've been accepted to four colleges, and two of them are for bowling at Lindenwood in St. Charles, Mo. and McKendree in southern Illinois," Petzoldt said. "I'm hoping for a scholarship for that, and I know what I need to do to make it to the pro level."

Last year, Petzoldt made Lemont High School history when he made it to state after being runner-up in the IHSA Sectionals Competition. He bowled a 1, 206 (201 average) during the six-game competition.

Bowling started as a hobby for Petzoldt, but soon transformed into a lifestyle.

"Bowling for me is like 24 [hours], seven [days a week]. The bowling alley is like my second home. I'm up there all the time and know almost everybody there. I live and sleep bowling" said Petzoldt.

This year, Petzoldt made it to the IHSA state competition and finished with a total score of 1, 150 (191.7 average). Overall, he finished 80th out of 112 competitors.

Although this is Petzoldt's last year in high school, he plans on continuing his bowling career after graduation, and to help others who want to accomplish the same.

"When I'm bowling, I'm a competitor," Petzoldt said. "When I'm not, I try to find ways that I can to

by Jamie Wiatr
Sports writer

help anybody else improve in the sport and enjoy it. I'm just a kid who loves bowling."

Driving School

**A
BETTER
CHOICE**

DRIVING SCHOOL

"A Better Road to Success"

- Get your driver's license quickly and conveniently
 - Sign up for classes now
 - Lowest rates available in the area
 - Illinois State Licensed Instructors
- Over 37 + years of safe driving experience
 - Free home pick-up
 - Register and Pay online
 - New classes start frequently

(630) 963 5075



TOM-TOM



Get started on college



Enroll in Joliet Junior College's dual credit program and earn college credit while still in high school!

Benefits of JJC's dual credit program:

- Grades appear on your transcript as a college course
- Credit is transferrable to most state colleges
- Tuition and fees are waived by JJC
- Classes are taught at your high school by teachers you know
- Classes are part of your regular high school schedule
- No extra fees or costs are involved



JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
—1901—

Talk to your high school counselor or visit
www.jjc.edu/info/dual-credit to learn more.



by Emily Pellegrine
Sports Editor

Lemont High Schools Varsity cheerleading squad competed for its second state title on Feb. 6 at U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington. With a score of 90.56, the team beat out Riverside-Brookfield and earned a back to back state championship. Last year's seniors left the team with many expectations, and they were certainly fulfilled.

Head coach Brittany Glowa said "There was a lot of pressure riding on us going into the State Competition to do well, especially after our high Sectional score, which was the highest in all of the Sectionals."

You would think that setting such high standards would overwhelm the girls, but they still managed to come out giving their finest.

Senior Paige Rallis would agree the pressure was on: "I felt a little nervous knowing that it was going to be my last shot at winning state with my team but at the same time I felt very confident because we really came together as a team and worked extremely hard at practice."

Winning state again is not only an honor for the squad, but also for Lemont High School. The hard work the cheerleaders put in every day at practice wouldn't be possible without the love of the sport.

"From the summer camps to all the practice after school, we put a lot of time and effort into it" said Senior Sarah Clancy.

Paige Rallis also stated "I dedicated almost all of my time to cheerleading since the beginning of June."

As you can tell, the two consecutive state championships were rightfully earned. When asked what kind of encouragement the coaches provided for the team before competition junior Emily Marzo said, "The most important words of encouragement from our coaches was probably to "leave it all on the floor,"" which is exactly what the girls did. Back to back.

As for next year's squad and getting yet another state championship under their belts, Brittany Glowa said, "The seniors who are graduating are extremely talented, however, there are girls of all grade levels that bring so much to the team. This year's team has set the bar very high, and will continue to motivate underclassmen and incoming freshman to be as successful as we were in the past two years."

Photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton